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Jan. 17.—The morning was wet, so I thought that after the rain of yesterday we could not proceed ; but it cleared up, and we crossed Beames Brook two hours after starting. We found the crossing-place a bad one. When a few of the horses crossed, it became so bad that we had to unpack and unsaddle several before we could get them on to the firm ground on the left side of the brook. This is the first stream of water we have crossed since we left the O'Shanassy River near its junction with the Gregory. Beames Brook, therefore, must connect the Gregory with the Albert River, which accounts for the great size of the latter. We now reached Nicholson River, which has got a broad sandy bed, so full of tea-tree that we could not see its breadth at this place. From this point we made Beames Brook on our outward track, and after observing the tracks of an expedition party trending towards the depôt, arrived at our Outward No. 2 Camp (Post-office Lagoon), where we expected to have got letters, but in this were disappointed.

Jan. 19.—Passed over rich undulating well-grassed country, slightly timbered with flooded box, extending from the Albert River about a mile to the eastward of our track. Reached Albert River depôt at 11:20.

(c). *Journal.*—LANDSBOROUGH'S *Expedition from Carpentaria to Victoria.*

The party consisted of Mr. W. Landsborough, leader ; Mr. Bourne, second in command ; Gleeson, Jemmy, Fisherman, Jackye, aboriginals.

The party left Carpentaria on the 8th of February, and arrived at Messrs. Williams's station, on the Warrego River, on the 21st of May—inclusive of both dates, 103 days. The total weight of provisions with which the party started was 1,279 lbs.

Feb. 8, 1862.—This was a busy day, as we were to abandon the depôt in the evening. By the assistance of Lieutenant Gascoyne and some of his men, with two boats, we pulled the horses across the river. In the evening the *Firefly* hulk was abandoned. Those of my party I could not take overland accompanied Lieutenant Gascoyne, Captain Norman having previously agreed to take them to their respective destinations, viz. :—my late assistant commander, H. N. Campbell, to Hobson's Bay, Victoria ; Mr. Allison, and the aboriginal-trooper, Charlie, to Brisbane.

Feb. 9.—To-day we were busily employed preparing for our expedition.

Feb. 10.—5:10 P.M., we started and came $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles upon well-grassed plains, and encamped near a fine water-hole. The water

was slightly brackish, but not so much so as to render it undrinkable. The plains we crossed were slightly wooded. Distance, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Feb. 11.—Having to repair packs, &c., did not leave until 1.10 P.M. The three weeks' rest the horses had on the rich pasture near the depôt made them so fresh that they were excessively restive. When we had come a short distance over fine well-grassed plains, we reached a salt-water creek, which we followed up a short distance, then crossed it and encamped in haste (as we saw a heavy thunder shower was about to fall), in latitude $17^{\circ} 53'$. Distance, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Feb. 12.—Camp 2, which we left this morning at 7.20, is situated about 7 miles S.E. from the Albert River Depôt. In our journey to-day, although we often got off the tracks of Walker's party, we did not altogether lose them. From last camp we came over well-grassed, lightly wooded plains for 5 miles, then over flat country for $4\frac{3}{4}$ miles. The land was covered with good grasses, and wooded with box and excoecaria. What I take to be excoecaria resembles the tree Mr. Walker describes as being probably the gutta percha. The box-trees are similar to those that grow near the Murrumbidgee River. In the middle of the day took an observation, which gave south latitude $17^{\circ} 59'$. Afterwards we came out of the wooded country to plains, and, after crossing a shallow watercourse, encamped. These plains had a higher elevation than any we had seen since leaving the depôt. The soil was rich, and luxuriantly covered with the best grasses, and slightly wooded with whitewood. The whitewood I take to be the tree Mr. Gregory calls the erythema. The last few miles were over plains subject to inundations. Distance, $16\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Feb. 13.—Passed over a rich, lightly-wooded plain about 8 miles, and struck the Leichhardt River at a part reached by the tide. This river seems to be fully larger than the Albert. The tracks of Walker's party were so indistinct on the rich plains, from so much rain having fallen, that I gave up hope of being able to follow them. Coursed the river down $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, and found a shallow, rocky ford, not available, as the rocks were too slippery, and the opposite bank too steep. From the ford we returned up the river, and encamped near some small water-holes. Distance, 8 miles.

Feb. 14.—In following the river up about $7\frac{3}{4}$ miles to a basaltic ford, where the water was fresh, we passed over rich, well-grassed country, consisting chiefly of plains, separated from each other by low wooded country. On the low land we observed salt-herbs, and pigweed, the proper name of which, I believe, is portulac. Crossed the ford and camped on the opposite side. The scenery here is picturesque; there is a fall of about 30 feet, with beautiful trees in

its neighbourhood. The channel of the river showed extensive old flood-marks, and had plenty of water in it, but I had to make a minute examination of it before I discovered the water was running. In a fine deep hole below the fall Mr. Bourne and I intended bathing, but had to go further, from hearing something like a large animal plunge into the water. Lat. $18^{\circ} 10' 30''$. Distance, $7\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

Feb. 15.—Having crossed $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile over a sandy flat, wooded with gum, fig, cotton, coral, white cedar, and other trees, we reached the flat rocky bed of a large watercourse, and crossed it $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile further; then $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile over a fine plain, with grass, pigweed, and salt-herbs. $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile more took us over a barren low ridge, with rusty gum, box, bloodwood, severn, and other trees, to a grassy watercourse, with fine little holes of water; being boggy, we were delayed in crossing. Thence over grassy flats and across another watercourse coming from the eastward. After trailing over poor ridges for 5 miles, we reached a fine, rich, flat valley, luxuriantly covered with barley and other grasses, when we stopped while some of our party tried, without success, to shoot an emeu. $4\frac{1}{4}$ mile beyond we reached a watercourse and encamped; the water flows from the N.E., and shows extensive flood-marks. The valley I named Neumayer. Direction to-day, E.S.E.; distance, 16 miles.

Feb. 16.—Sunday. Rested ourselves and horses.

Feb. 17.—Across low land, wooded chiefly with (what I take it to be) excoecaria; then over unwooded, gently-undulating ground, which extended up the valley to low bald hills. The land is well grassed. A site near those hills would answer well for a lambing-ground for a sheep establishment. Thence over high grassy lands, wooded with gum, broad-leaved box, whitewood, and other trees, to near the base of a hill, that was remarked from its only being wooded on its summit; after which, over undulating well-grassed ground, to a small watercourse from the west; then miles over flat, poor country, thickly wooded with bloodwood and other trees; the last $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles over poor, low ridges, covered with triodia and other grasses, and wooded with bloodwood, tea, severn, and other trees, to a small watercourse, where we encamped. Direction to-day, E. by S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S.; distance, 16 miles.

Feb. 18.—At 11:45 we had come $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles over two kinds of country—the first and largest part consisting of poor low ridges, covered with inferior grasses, and wooded with bloodwood, tea, and other trees; the second part consisting of flat country, rich soil, well grassed, and wooded with bauhinia, and westernwood acacia. The acacia I have mentioned is called gidya in some parts of Australia. Then, after crossing a strip of unwooded country, we passed over poor low ridges covered with triodia,

and wooded chiefly with tea trees, for $5\frac{3}{4}$ miles, and encamped on a ravine. Direction travelled this day, E. by S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S.; distance, $15\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

Feb. 19.—In the rocky basin of the ravine, at Camp 8, I think water will always be found. We left camp and came in an E. by S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. direction. The country for a short distance was confined, but on descending the valley it opened out into plains separated from each other by isolated hills of a conical form. The tops of the hills were covered by rocks which, from their appearance, were of a sandstone formation; the lower parts of the hills were well grassed, the plains of a rich soil, and covered with a luxuriant green herbage. At 9:30, having come over the plains on our old course for 5 miles from the isolated hills, we reached the Flinders River. The river, we were glad to find, had been recently flooded; in crossing we ascertained it had four channels, one of which was running. As this was the river on the banks of which Mr. Walker said he had found the track of Burke's party, I thought it would be a good plan to follow it up, and resolved to do so. From the opposite bank of the river we came S. $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles, which took us over country wooded with box and terminalis, to plains similar to those I have described on the left bank of the river, with this difference, that on this side there were more flats and pigweed, salt-herbs, and salt-bush. Lat. at noon, $18^{\circ} 32' 30''$. Rest of the day through good grass country, and reached water. Distance to-day, $19\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

Feb. 20.—At Camp 9 one of the mares foaled. The plains in this neighbourhood are thinly grassed, which I think is caused by a recent dry season; early in the afternoon reached country that is more thickly grassed, and encamped. The foal was so active that it kept up with the horses on this day's journey. Distance, $11\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

Feb. 21.—Camp 10, situated on the right bank of Flinders River. After starting, steered E.S.E., a mile over rich ground, with box-trees and salt-bush, well-grassed land, thinly wooded with whitewood, pomegranate, bauhinia, and other small trees; thence S.E. $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile, over ground so green with herbage that one of my companions said it resembled the banks of the Murrumbidgee in spring; took observation on an unwooded plain; lat. $18^{\circ} 55' 30''$; thence S.S.E. over rich plains, covered in places with luxuriant young grass, having the appearance more of young barley than any other indigenous verdure that I have seen elsewhere. Distance, $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Feb. 22.—Travelled all day over thinly-wooded country and rich plain, occasionally covered with rich barley-grass. Observation at noon, $19^{\circ} 6' S.$ General direction, S.S.E.; distance, $17\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

Feb. 23.—This being Sunday, we rested ourselves and horses. In this neighbourhood Jackey and Fisherman caught five opossums.

Feb. 24.—During last night and this morning the weather was showery. In the morning the rain was accompanied by a strong east wind. Now that I am on the subject of the weather, I may mention that for some time past it was so cool that although we were in the sun the hottest part of the day, I did not find the heat oppressive. After passing some thinly-grassed but good soil, we came upon a watercourse with large quantities of mussel-shells on its banks, but with no water in its channel; thence over country, some of which was well grassed and very green, from the old grass having been burnt, crossing several watercourses. Having left the party to look at the river, in my absence a high hill was seen to the left of our course, which I named Fort Bowen. The vegetation in this neighbourhood seems nearly dead, excepting the salt-bush, though the soil is rich. Distance, 16 miles.

Feb. 25.—No. 13 Camp was situated on the right bank of the Flinders River, at a point about 4 miles distant from Fort Bowen, and N.W. and by W. from it. Looking from the camp, the hill had a long topped aspect, with rather an abrupt western termination. During night the weather was showery, and in the morning rain fell, accompanied by a strong north-east wind. Made for base of Fort Bowen, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. In coming that distance we crossed plains which had, near the river, more herbs than grass; and near the hill more grass than herbs. At the base we found springs surrounded by reeds and clumps of tea-trees. Accompanied by Jemmy, I ascended Fort Bowen, the rest of the party proceeding up the river. From the summit I observed two little hills in the distance, bearing 60° E. of S. From the density of the atmosphere, no other hills were visible. Plains surround Fort Bowen on all sides. Those on the west side of the Flinders River are more thickly wooded than those on the east side. Fort Bowen, I should say, is about 200 feet high. From its surface pudding-stone rocks crop out. Almost immediately after descending, we overtook the rest of the party, halting near water-holes in which there were ducks. Jackey and Fisherman had tried to kill some, but without success; upon which Mr. Bourne and Jackey went to shoot at a large flock of cockatoos, the rest of us proceeding on our journey, over rich plains, and encamped. Before we halted, Mr. Bourne and Jackey overtook us, loaded with cockatoos, of which they had shot as many as they wanted, as the flock did not fly away. Distance, $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Feb. 26.—At Camp 14. Jemmy and Jackey went out early for the horses. Shortly after noon they returned, having only found a portion of them. They brought back two snakes, and ate

them for dinner. Jackey was bitten by one of the reptiles, but so slightly that he did not think anything of it. Snakes are rare in this part of the country. In my last expedition to the south-west I only remember having seen one. In the evening Fisherman brought in the remainder of the horses. The weather was showery, accompanied by northerly wind for the greater part of the day.

Feb. 27.—Having crossed a plain in sight of the trees on the banks of the river in an easterly course for $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles, sighted hills, named by me Mount Brown and Mount Little. Steered towards Mount Little for $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and reached a watercourse full of water from the east. Jemmy and I left the party, to ascend Mount Little, which is nearer to the river than Mount Brown. We reached Mount Little in about a mile, and rode to its rocky summit. Its elevation is about 50 feet. The rocks looked like granite, but on a closer inspection I found they were of a stratified formation. From the mount, nothing was observable except Fort Bowen, Mount Brown, a little rise, and extensive thinly-wooded plains. Fort Bowen bore 58° w. of n., the small rise s. and by e. I built here a small cairn, and scratched with a mussel-shell, which I picked up at a blacks' camp (having no knife), my initials and a broad arrow. If it always rained when the grass required moisture, this would be one of the best places, if not altogether the best, in Australia. Distance, $15\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Feb. 28.—Near Camp 15, the water in the river is deep, with tea-trees growing near—a good sign that the water is permanent. Last night we had a sudden and heavy shower of rain. Passed at first over rich level ground, thinly wooded with box and (what I take to be) excoecaria, and green with the following herbage—roleypoley, pigweed, salt-bush, and grass to plains. Came $5\frac{3}{4}$ miles in the same direction across plains intersected from the east by shallow watercourses, outlets of the river during floods. At noon got an observation on a plane horizon of about a mile in length, giving lat. $19^{\circ} 51' 7''$. Found the tracks of our party along an unwooded plain, with plenty of old grass on it, now green from the recent wet weather; and along a low sandy ridge, green with grass and brushwood. This land evidently retains the moisture better than that of the country down the river. Then $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile across a thickly-grassed plain, after which came $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile over level, well-grassed, and thinly-wooded land, with the exception of a sandhill wooded with bauhinia. In the afternoon passed for $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile over poor sandy land, badly grassed and thickly wooded, and then $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles over level country, covered with roleypoley, pigweed, salt-bush, and young grass, and wooded with box and westernwood acacia, to water, and encamped. Distance, $18\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

March 1.—Camp 16, situated on the right bank of the Flinders

River.—Travelled 5 miles E.S.E., on an average course along the right bank of the river, over rich level land covered with roleypoley, pigweed, grass, and salt-bush, and wooded with box, terminalis, and other trees. Observation at noon gave lat. $20^{\circ} 3' 30''$. Came $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile over sandy level land, on which I observed, amongst other grasses, tufts of kangaroo-grass, and then $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile over an unwooded plain and very rich soil, covered with roleypoley, pigweed, salt-bush, and luxuriant young grass, where I overtook the party, which now passed over an unwooded well-grassed plain, to a watercourse from the east, with long holes of water. Here a black was observed in the distance. As this was the first whom we had seen since leaving the depôt, and as I never had observed tracks on either this expedition or the one to the south-west, which a thunder-shower would not efface, I think there cannot be many blacks in the country near the Gulf of Carpentaria. Thence over rich low plains or slightly undulating land with abundance of grass, and slightly wooded with trees and bushes, to a watercourse from the east. On the country I have just mentioned grow bushes like the garden box, loaded with fruit pleasant to the taste. We broke branches and ate the berries as we rode along. Distance to-day, $20\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

March 2.—Camp 17, situated on the right bank of the Flinders River.—Tea-trees here fringe the channel, which looks permanently watered. Although this was Sunday, we came up the river, Mr. Bourne and Jackey having observed a strong body of blacks. We started over rich level land, grassed with herbage, and wooded with box and bauhinia, and encamped before noon, as it rained heavily. Distance, 5 miles.

March 3.—It rained so heavily that we remained here. The ground was so soft that the horses, much as they are inclined for rambling, did not go further away than $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile.

March 4.—All day were passing over rich plains with luxuriant herbage, and crossed numerous shallow watercourses. Ground very soft. Meridian observation, $20^{\circ} 19'$. Jemmy, Jackey, and Fisherman were very successful in collecting food for their supper. On the plains they caught a great number of rats, and near here they caught five opossums. Distance, $18\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

March 5.—Camp 19, on right bank of Flinders River.—Came over two kinds of well-grassed country, in an E. and N. direction, for 3 miles, the first part wooded with box and bauhinia, the second a plain between belts of timber. Afterwards E.S.E., across a plain, to some extent overrun with roleypoley to a deep stream flowing to the north. Here I swam across to the opposite bank to a plain, which appeared beautifully level, and made on it lat. $20^{\circ} 23'$. Thence up along the stream, in a south-east direction over

well-grassed land, wooded with box, to the outlet of a stream from the river, and encamped. Distance, $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

March 6.—Camp 20, situated on the left bank of a northern channel of the Flinders River.—The water having fallen greatly since yesterday, we carried the saddles and packs over, and then led the horses. As the northern bank was boggy, we had to apply the whip severely to some of the horses to get them to ascend it. Passed up along the left bank of a watercourse, with a thin margin of box-trees, across a plain, to the right bank of the river, where I made the lat. $20^{\circ} 31'$. Thence along a plain in a S.E. and by E. direction to a deeper and broader outlet from the river than the one we crossed in the morning, where we had to unsaddle and unpack. The horses were then driven into the stream, and swam across. Afterwards we pulled the saddles and packs across with a rope, and encamped. We adopted the following plan for taking them over the river. We attached the articles to the middle of a rope, and passed one end of it over the fork of a tree on the southern bank; one end of the rope being pulled with sufficient force to keep the goods clear of the water, and the other end pulled with much greater force, the goods were safely landed on the southern bank. This would have been accomplished easily if we had had a pulley, but as we had none, it took hard pulling to make the rope travel. The country we passed over has the same rich character as the land I described yesterday. Distance, $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

March 7.—Camp 21, situated on right bank of Flinders River.—Knowing that plains, with just a sufficiency of trees for firewood and shade, have proved better than any other for pastoral purposes, this country delighted me; but I must say it would please me more if there were a few high hills in the distance. I was, however, charmed with the landscape around the camp this morning. In the foreground I saw fine box, excoecaria, and other trees, festooned with beautiful cumbering creepers, and beyond them the horses feeding on a fine grassy plain, extending to the north and eastward, to apparently distant blue mountains. As the day advanced this picture unfortunately lost a portion of its beauty, by the disappearance of anything like mountains in the distant horizon. Went east for 10 miles along a plain behind the wooded country near the river, but further back it is either covered with roley-poley and pigweed, or with young grasses, which I am afraid are annuals. Yet, notwithstanding these drawbacks, it is a very fine country, and if care is taken by the future occupiers not to overstock it, sheep and cattle will do remarkably well upon it. When it is occupied, it should be improved by having seeds sown during the beginning of the wet season, to produce plants with deep roots,

which will take the place of the annuals. If this was done, and tanks and wells made in the back country, the land would probably carry at least twice the quantity of stock it could now; but to get improvements of that character made, a freehold tenure would probably be required. This extensive plain is in lat. $20^{\circ} 37' 30''$. Started over well-grassed plains, and overtook the main party. At a shallow watercourse, surrounded by rushes and polygonum, where I got off my horse to get a drink, and carelessly let him out of my hands. In a second he scampered off to the other horses. Jackey, however, soon brought him back to me. Distance, $16\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

March 8.—Camp 22, situated on the right bank of the Flinders River.—The river presents here a fine sheet of water; the channel has the appearance of draining a large tract of country. Came E. and by S. along a plain behind the wooded country skirting the river, to an eastern channel of the river, and delayed five minutes to get water; after which, till near camping-ground, over gently undulating rich land, green with herbage and wooded with box. After crossing a small creek near its junction with the river, Jemmy and I left the party, and cantered for 2 miles in a north-east direction, over high undulating rich ground, with fine grass, to a point commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country. To the eastward I observed about 10 miles distant a line of wooded country, which probably fringes a stream flowing parallel to the Flinders River. Lat. at noon, $20^{\circ} 48'$. Thereabouts I observed the recent tracks of a steer or cow. Further on came to clay flats covered with grass and salt-herbs, and wooded with box. In a short distance we crossed two watercourses from the east, with good holes of water. Encamped near water and good grass. Distance, $16\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

March 9.—As this was Sunday, we rested ourselves and horses. I make it a rule to fare better on Sunday than on other days; so we had for breakfast, damper, meat, and pigweed; for lunch, pea-soup; and for dinner, cold rice and jam. The country in this neighbourhood I named Hervey Downs.

March 10.—At camp: party out, looking for the beast that I had seen traces of on Saturday.

March 11.—Party returned. From Mr. Bourne I got the following report of their expedition:—"After following the tracks of the beast for about 2 miles down the river, they found it had crossed, and travelled out on the plains in a south-easterly direction; followed tracks for 20 miles to where they turned nearly east. Up to this point they found water in several places, but in running the tracks for 15 or 20 miles further, found none, and very reluctantly turned back (feeling satisfied that the beast had got too much start of them); at 4 P.M. to water and encamped.

They had no rations, excepting an iguana and a few mussels." These downs consist of loose brown loam, thickly covered with iron-stone pebbles, and would be very good country, if the roley-poley were not so prevalent.

March 12.—Camp 23, situated on the left bank of a shallow creek. Not far from camp crossed the river at a place where the water has a fall of several feet, over flags of sandstone; thence east, over rich well-wooded downs. By observation at noon, lat. $20^{\circ} 41'$. Started again over rich undulating land, to a water-course. These downs are so sparse of trees that a small belt of brushwood on the top of an eminence was a remarkable feature. It is situated about a mile from the spot from which I made my observation; when we had come up the creek, on an average S.E. and by E. direction, for $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, we encamped. The country we have seen to-day has decidedly undulating features and a rich soil. Some of the flats were covered with roley-poley, but the rest of the country was grassed. Distance to-day, $18\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

March 13.—Camp 24, situated on the left bank of a broad shallow watercourse, named O'Connell Creek. When we had ridden up the creek about 4 miles we found the tracks of the beast that Mr. Bourne tracked south-easterly from the 23rd camp. After coming backwards and forwards for some time, we crossed O'Connell Creek, then came about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the left bank of the Flinders River, and abandoned the tracks of the beast, as they were going down the river. We followed up the river for about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The first part of that distance it was confined by stony ridges, wooded with acacias and other trees; in the second part were large box-flats, with unwooded rising ground behind. From our path along the rising ground we observed, in the distance, a number of blacks, near the river; and also observed, a-head of us, to the eastward, a long blue range, which I found afterwards confined the river on its right side. I named it Bramston Range. Afterwards we came over well-grassed country of a similar character to that I have described last for about $5\frac{3}{4}$ miles, and encamped. All the country we have seen to-day is well grassed, with the exception of a few plains, overrun with roley-poley. I may remark, also, that birds, chiefly consisting of pigeons, cockatoos, quail, and hawks, were seen in great abundance. Distance, $18\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

March 14.—Camp 25, situated on the left bank of a western channel of the Flinders River. When we had come 7 miles, over rich well-grassed downs, we observed a great number of blacks on a level flat, which extended to the southward. Mr. Bourne and I approached them, and they all ran away, except some gins and children, who hid themselves in a water-hole. We remained near

them for a short time, and were joined by Jemmy and Jackey. The gins and children soon abandoned their hiding-place, and assembled on the bank, where they had their coolamans filled with rats. The old gins repeatedly offered the wives of the men who had run away to us. Amongst the females whom I observed, was a girl about ten years old, with a large bone stuck through the cartilage of her nose. The young gins had fine eyes, white teeth, and good expression. The children looked particularly lively and intelligent. Jemmy understood a few words of their language, but not sufficient to get information from them. Their word for water, 'cammo,' I caught while we were getting them to fill our pint pots with water. Lat. at noon $20^{\circ} 29' 16''$. Thence over rich downs, very much overrun with roley-poley. As we had been getting too far away from the river, we made for it, and having reached water encamped. The country we passed over last, consists of well-grassed downs. In the water we got plenty of mussels, which made an agreeable addition to our rations. Distance, $17\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

March 15—Camp 26, situated near a creek named by me Sloane Creek, 3 miles S.E. from Bramstone Range. In the morning, over rich, high, unwooded downs, for $5\frac{3}{4}$ miles, to a creek with a shallow broad channel. This stream evidently flows towards the river. I named it Walker Creek. After crossing Walker Creek we came over high downs for about 12 miles, and having found water encamped. Towards the river the country is wooded with a kind of myall, but not the drooping acacia. Amongst it the horses have gone to feed, in preference to the open country. The ground on this side of Walker Creek is composed of a reddish soil, with occasionally detached pieces of basalt. It is covered with the best grasses, the highest portions thinly wooded with small trees, amongst which I observed whitewood, myall, and Port Curtis sandalwood. From our path to-day we observed that the right side of the river was confined by wooded ranges, extending without prominent features from Bramston Range to table ranges near here. Distance, $17\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

March 16, at Camp 27.—To-day Fisherman and I left the party in camp, to ascend the lowest down of the three table ranges, on the right bank of the Flinders River. We reached the left bank of the river, which has a sandy level bed, and is about 80 yards wide. From the river we reached the base of the range in rather less than a mile. I expected to find it of a sandstone formation, with triodia on its surface; but on ascending the range I found that although it had a sandstone formation, it was covered with a dark perforated basalt, and at other places with rich soil and good grass. From the summit I observed that the river was joined at a short distance above this range by a tributary to the S.E., and that the following hills bore in the directions named:—A high distant

table range, which I have named after Frederick Walker, Esq., my brother explorer, 130° ; a table range $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile distant, 90° ; a table range about 3 miles distant, 45° ; three conical hills on a range about 7 miles distant, respectively, 44° , 43° , and 39° ; a tent-topped hill, about 7 miles distant, $22\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$; a hill with an irregular top, about 19 miles distant, 20° . Bramston Range, 245° ; encampment, 195° . After descending the range, we proceeded to the junction of the creek, and marked trees on both sides of the river, just above its junction. Between the hill and the river we found marjoram, a plant that we have been searching for since we got our last supply at the Leichhardt River, to use as a substitute for tea; and also found—what interested us much more—the old tracks of an expedition party. The tracks were very indistinct; but as Fisherman succeeded in following them for a short distance to the north-west, I suppose that they were the tracks of Walker's party, when on their way from the Nogoia to the Albert River. (*Distance not stated—say 7 miles.*)

March 17.—Camp 27, situated on the left bank of a southern outlet from the Flinders River. Started late, along unwooded, well-grassed land, at the back of country wooded with myall for $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, then over country more overrun with roley-poley, but otherwise of a similar character, for 2 miles to the termination of the myall. Here I observed that we were about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles west from the end of a range which I suppose confines the river on its right bank, and north-west from Frederick Walker's Table Mountain. After coming $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles further, we reached a place where there was plenty of good water and grass, with a high bank, and encamped, as Gleeson was very unwell. The last distance was over unwooded downs, covered with barley and other grasses. Distance, 10 miles.

March 18.—Camp 28, situated near the left side of a water-course of the Flinders River. At noon made the lat. $20^{\circ}40'30''$. Having ridden 7 miles, we reached Frederick Walker's Table Mountain, and ascended it. From its high summit I observed that, stretching across part of the horizon, there was nothing to be seen but plains. Along another part, on the south-eastern side, there was a succession of ranges, from which we bore in the following way:—From the end of the ranges in the distance, 151° ; a distant range, 147° ; a red rocky hill, about 7 miles distant, 140° ; a table range, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant, 103° ; a high distant conical hill, the one that I probably saw from the table range, near 27 Camp, 5° ; the table ranges, 310° . We were thirsty; and as we did not know how far our party would have to go to get water for the encampment, I spent as little time as possible in making observations. Having started after the main party, we overtook them just as it was getting dark. They had gone round the mountain,

and as they had not found water, they were proceeding to the north-east in search of it. Continuing the same course, we reached at 8 P.M. water, and encamped. The land we passed over to-day is good; the soil is a rich reddish loam. The country consists of downs, luxuriantly covered with good grasses, except at places which are overrun with roley-poley. These downs are thinly wooded in places with myall, whitewood, and Port Curtis sandalwood. Frederick Walker's Table Mountain is of a sandstone formation, and is covered at places with triodia. On the southern side of it there is a dry watercourse, which rises from the northward. At many places in coming up this river, we have observed a most interesting vine, which produced pods of beautiful silky cotton. As the pods were pleasant to eat, we were on the continual lookout for it. Distance, 18 miles (approximatively).

March 19.—Camp 23, situated on flat ground, on the left side of a small watercourse. Jemmy and Gleeson almost too unwell to travel. Proceeded a short distance, and encamped. The land we saw to-day was, on the whole, well-grassed; the flattest portions of it are wooded with myall, Port Curtis sandalwood, and western-wood acacia. The country, looking from the unwooded plains, is beautiful, and with luxuriant herbage; the surrounding isolated ranges lend an interest to the scenery. The river has here a sandy channel, about 120 paces wide, with a shallow stream meandering along its almost level surface. Distance, 5 miles.

March 20.—Camp 30, situated on the left bank of the Flinders River. Gleeson and Jemmy had recovered sufficiently to start on the journey. We started at 10.12. After crossing the river, we followed it up on its right bank in an easterly direction, and crossed it at the end of the range on the left bank. We then followed up a creek I named Jardine's Creek, in a N.E. and E. direction, and encamped. From camp, Fisherman and I went W.N.W. for $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, to the top of a range bearing as described from the following ranges:—A distant conical range (probably the one observed from near 27 Camp) $3^{\circ} 48'$; the end of Frederick Walker's Table Mountain, 245° ; the other end, 238° ; the place where Fisherman thought Jardine's Creek joined the river, 255° . The country we saw from our path along the right bank of the river was not, of course, extensive, but what we saw was flat, covered with long grass, and wooded with bloodwood and gum. These trees were the largest I have seen in this part of the country, and almost the only ones I have seen since leaving the *dépôt* at all well adapted for building purposes. The country in the valley of Jardine's Creek is most beautiful. It is thickly grassed, and in some parts without trees; in others, thinly wooded, or wooded with clumps of trees. The hills on both sides of the valley are picturesque. Distance, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

March 21, at Camp 31.—Fisherman and I left camp this morning, and went s.e. for 14 miles. The first 4 miles took us over the range to the head of a creek; the next 5 miles down the creek; and the next 5 miles to the left of the creek. We then went s.w. to the creek, and selected a place for the next encampment. Then returning to depôt camp, we followed up the creek, and it took us in a n. $\frac{1}{2}$ w. direction for 5 miles to our outward tracks. Then returning by our track to camp, we reached it by travelling for an hour after dark. In going and returning, we spent nearly twelve hours on horseback. At camp I was sorry to learn that Gleeson was still very unwell. The country on the other side of the range is nearly level; back from the creek it is chiefly overgrown with triodia, and wooded with ironbark. The ironbark-trees are the first I have seen on this expedition. Near the creek, and at some places for a mile back from it, the soil is rich, with luxuriant good grass, except at places where it is thickly wooded with westernwood acacia and Port Curtis sandalwood, where the herbage is not so rank, but the salt-bush amongst it is a good sign of its having the most fattening qualities. The ranges on the southern side of the valley are not so good as the ranges on the northern side; the former are more sandy, and are not so well covered with rich basaltic soil.—*Two rides of 29 miles and 11 miles; total, 40.*

March 22.—Camp 31, situated on the right bank of Jardine's Creek, at a point about 5 miles above its junction with Flinders River. At 3.20 p.m., reached the place I had chosen yesterday for our encampment, and unsaddled. Distance to-day, 14 miles.

March 23.—As this was Sunday, we rested ourselves and horses. Gleeson and Jemmy still unwell.

March 24.—To-day we followed the creek, and encamped at a fine water-hole. All along the creek there are fine deep water-holes. The channel is a kind of sandstone formation, particularly good for retaining water. About eight miles above here, the creek is joined by another watercourse, about the same size, from the n.w. I have named it Coxon Creek. The country is not so level as it is higher up the creek. The soil is very good, with grass, salt-bush, and herbs. Sheep or cattle will do well on it, but it will not carry much stock to its acreage, as it is confined at many places by ridges with triodia, and only a small proportion of other grasses. Triodia is certainly better than nothing, as stock will eat it when it is young, and at other times will eat it rather than starve. The best part of the country is thickly wooded with acacia and other small trees. This would not be objectionable where blacks were quiet, and where it is not necessary at times to run sheep in large flocks; but in the first occupation of the country it will be so, as labour will probably be scarce. Distance, $15\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

March 25.—Came down the right bank of the creek and encamped. The creek has fine deep holes of water. The channel generally is confined by sandstone at places, by shelving rocks a few feet high, and inaccessible for horses. Here the channel is broad and sandy: about seven miles below the last camp it is joined by a smaller watercourse from the north-west, named by me Raff Creek. The country we saw from our path was mostly good. It consists of well-grassed, thinly-wooded flats, separated from each other by belts of Port Curtis sandalwood, baubinia, and other small trees, and at other places by low ridges with triodia. The country in the immediate neighbourhood consists of low ridges of poor soil, with numerous rocky gullies. These ridges are chiefly wooded with ironbark and grassed with triodia. Distance, 15 miles.

March 26.—Travelled our usual pace till 1.45, when we encamped at a small creek from the north-east. We stopped here, as we found dray-tracks near the creek that I wanted to trace. Fisherman and I traced them a short distance to the north-east. The tracks were made probably by the parties who have occupied Bowen Downs. Bowen Downs is a fine tract of country that Mr. N. Buchanan and I discovered about two years ago. The country we passed over to-day is easily described. It is undulating, poor land, of a sandstone formation, grassed with triodia, and wooded with ironbark and bloodwood. Having left the creek on which we encamped last night, our course to-day took us back on to high ground, from which we had to descend. Distance, 14½ miles.

March 27.—Camp 35, situated on the right bank of a small well-watered creek. In a ride down the creek this morning I saw the recent tracks of a cow or steer (probably made by the beast that had been on the Flinders River). Started from camp at 1.45 p.m., and crossed a creek flowing to the northward. On both sides of the creek there are stony ranges, grassed with triodia, and wooded with ironbark. After leaving the creek we crossed the ridges, and came on land with a good deal of rich soil and wooded with belts of myall, Port Curtis sandalwood, and westernwood acacia. About these scrubs the grass is very good, and there is a luxuriant undergrowth of salt-bush and salt-herbs. Sighted to the south-west a small isolated hill, which Mr. Bourne and I ascended. It is surrounded by rich, well-grassed, high downs, wooded at places with small belts of myall. The shape of this hill is like an artificial mound, with the ruins of a tower on its summit. Distance, 10 miles.

March 28.—We encamped to-day at foot of Tower-hill. On its summit I found a small tree that I remembered marking when on my first expedition to this part of the country. Almost half the way to Tower-hill was wooded with myall and westernwood acacia. In the middle of that wooded country, we crossed a range, and

observed unwooded downs to the right of our path. The remainder of the way was rich, undulating ground, slightly wooded with trees and grassed with best grasses. To the left of our course there was low ground, wooded at places with box, and at other places with westernwood acacia. In a water-hole near camp, Mr. Bourne and I while bathing found mussels in abundance; but as our caterers, of whom Mr. Bourne was the chief, had shot two turkeys, we did not gather any mussels. Distance, $16\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

March 29.—From last camp we reached Landsborough's Creek to-day. I expected to-day to have reached a station that Mr. Buchanan, when I left Brisbane, told me he intended forming on this creek. I told my party to expect that we would here get fresh provisions. When we had travelled upwards of 10 miles from last camp, and in that distance only saw the appearance of a single horse-track, I came to the conclusion that Mr. Buchanan had taken no stock up the creek, and changed our course, so as to strike it lower down. Further on, we all felt confident we were on stocked country; but this impression was soon changed by Fisherman telling us that he believed the grass had been eaten off by grasshoppers. The country we crossed to-day is a rich soil, and is wooded along the watercourses with box, and at other places with a few bushes. Near the creek the land is flat, and badly grassed, but back from the creek the land is undulating and well-grassed. From our path we saw, on both sides of us, table ranges, which gave a charm to the landscape. Distance, $23\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

March 30.—This being Sunday, we rested.

March 31.—Camp 38, situated on the left side of Landsborough's Creek, about 2 miles north of a table-range on the opposite bank. We crossed Cornish Creek a short distance above its junction with Landsborough's Creek. It had been recently flooded; and although the ford was a good one, the stream was still about 3 feet deep. Below the junction of this creek the watercourse is called Landsborough's River. (Lower down we ascertained it was called the Thomson River.) On the left bank of Cornish Creek there are wooded ranges extending for several miles down the river. After leaving these ridges, our path down the left bank of the river went over rich undulating ground, with good grass, and a few belts of box-trees. On the opposite side of the river there is a considerable extent of wooded country. An observation at 2 P.M. this day gave lat. $22^{\circ} 27' 39''$ S. Distance, 16 miles.

April 1.—When we had come down along the left bank of the river about 8 miles, Jemmy and I left our party, and went back to the unwooded downs. These downs extend as far as the eye can reach to the eastward. Before we had gone far we found the recent tracks of an exploring party, and, instead of rejoining our party, we followed the tracks to see where they led, which appeared

to be in the direction of some untimbered hills on the left bank of the Aramak Creek. After leaving the tracks we made for the river, and reached it at a point a short distance above an old camp of mine, where there is a tree marked

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At the river we found we had overshot our party, so we had to follow the river up to find their encampment. Our path to-day went 15 miles over unwooded, undulating, rich ground, bearing abundance of grass; then $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles over a country with higher undulations, and good grass, with myall, westernwood acacia, and Port Curtis sandalwood. Distance made by Expedition not stated—probably a little over 8 miles. (*Distance travelled by Jemmy and myself to-day, $26\frac{1}{2}$ miles.*)

April 2.—Travelled down the river till 6 in the evening, journeying later than usual to get out of the neighbourhood of some blacks that we passed about 7 miles back from here. At a place about $14\frac{1}{2}$ miles back I halted with Jackey, and made an observation of the sun, lat. $22^{\circ} 58' 29''$; afterwards, when we had nearly overtaken the party, I observed the blacks were near them. We galloped towards them, to make them run away; but instead of doing so, they remained, and received us in a friendly manner, and offered us their spears and boomerangs. I let Jackey take a spear and two boomerangs; the spear we wanted for making ram-rods. In return for their presents I gave them a tomahawk. These blacks are fine, tall, powerful fellows. When we overtook the party, Mr. Bourne informed me that the blacks had followed it for about 3 miles, and that one of them, a powerfully built man, about six feet high, had been so very bold, that he (Mr. Bourne) had repeatedly fired over his head without causing him any alarm; and that on one occasion, on looking round, he saw him apparently in the act of throwing his boomerang at him. These blacks told Jemmy, who understood their language, that they had seen nothing of any explorers with camels. When we were unsaddling, I was sorry to find that we had not got out of the neighbourhood of the blacks, as I observed some of them were watching us from behind some trees close at hand. Jemmy told them that I was very angry at them for following us. In reply, they said I was mistaken; that they had not followed, they had never seen us before. Shortly afterwards Jemmy had a long conversation with them, during which they informed him they had seen a party of explorers to the eastward, but that they had never seen any with camels or drays. Rich, undulating ground, covered with good grass, and slightly wooded with myall, westernwood acacia, and Port Curtis sandal-

wood, extends from the ranges in many places to the left bank of the river. Distance, 23 miles.

April 3.—Left Camp 41, situated on the left bank of the river, at a place between two isolated ranges. One of the ranges is on the left bank: I have named it Mackenzie Range. The other, on the opposite bank, I have named Herbert Range. The four blacks who left us yesterday evening paid us a visit as soon as it was light this morning: they were very communicative, and informed us that the river flowed to the southward; that it was joined about two days' journey from this by a large river from the north-east; that a long way down the river the country was sandy and destitute of grass; and that beyond the ranges in sight there were no hills. We travelled seven hours to-day along the left bank of the river, and camped. The country we saw during the forenoon was of an undulating character, and the soil rich, with myall and westernwood acacia. The grass was good, but from the absence of rain, not so fresh-looking as higher up the river. Our path in the afternoon lay near the river, over low ground, wooded with box, having an undergrowth of salt-bush and polygonum. To the eastward there was fine open undulating country. Somewhere above here I think it is probable that the river is joined by a larger stream from the westward, as it is now quite unfordable, and about 60 feet in width. Distance, 16 miles.

April 4.—Distance, 18 miles. Nothing calling for remark.

April 5.—Camp 43 is situated on the right bank of Stark Creek. We travelled to-day, in the first instance, slightly to the westward of south, with the view of reaching the river. In a few miles we crossed a large watercourse, to which I gave the name of Porteous Creek; at present dry, but with extensive flood-marks, and heaps of mussel-shells on its banks. A few miles further in the same direction, we crossed a small watercourse, which apparently joins Porteous Creek. The banks are wooded with myall. Behind these belts of myall the country rises in gentle undulations; the soil is rich, almost without trees; and from the appearance of the grass it was evident there had been no rain for a long time. In the afternoon we went north-westerly, and by that course reached the river; and after following it down for a short distance, we encamped. Distance, 21 miles.

April 6.—As this was Sunday we rested: weather cold.

April 7. Bowen Downs.—Made sun's meridian altitude A. H. $118^{\circ} 12'$ (I did not take notice of the index error); the latitude is by that observation taken about 8 A.M. This morning the blacks told Jemmy of a well-watered road leading to a river to the southward. On that river they said the blacks had clothes, and it was from them they got their iron tomahawks. Not long after starting,

crossed what I have named Bourne Creek. Lost our way, and travelled all night, not reaching our camp till next forenoon, and meanwhile the sextant got out of order and became useless.

April 9. The rest of party at Camp 44.—Jemmy and I left camp this morning in search of water on the route we wanted to go. We went along the plains, on the left bank of the river, in a s. and w. direction, for 8 miles. We expected to find in that distance a well-watered river, which Jemmy understood the blacks to say formed the river a short distance below the camp. As we had not found it there we went west, and reached the river in about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles further. We then followed it down for about 2 miles in a southward direction, where we found the blacks we had seen up the river. Upon telling them we had not found water back from the river, and that we now wanted them to show us the road to the next river, and would give them a tomahawk and a shirt for doing so, they promised if we would bring our party down the river they would do so. We saw here two old gins and a little girl, whom we had not seen before. One of the gins was a disfigured looking object: she had lost her nose and her lips. The little girl was about four years old; she had good features, and was fat and plump. To please the blacks, we let one of the little boys ride a horse for a short distance. After asking them to remain in this neighbourhood we returned to camp. *Distance, about 29 miles.*

April 10.—As I imagined, Gregory's party had traced the Thomson River to its head. I did not suppose this river was it. I determined, as we had used the most of our stores, to leave the river, if possible, and start for the settled districts. It was very vexatious to come to this resolution, as the river was flowing almost in the direction of Burke's starting point on Cooper Creek. We left Camp 44 at 9.50 A.M., and reached the place we had arranged to meet the blacks in about 14 miles. It took us, travelling steadily, exclusive of stoppages, five hours to reach it. The blacks were waiting for us, and conducted us about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile further down the river to a good place for our encampment. I gave a pound of flour to one of the black fellows. He is going to-morrow, on foot, to see if there is water in the water-holes on the road to Barcoo River.

April 11.—Two of the blacks started this morning along the line they intend taking us, if they can find water for the first stage. I spent a considerable time in repairing my sextant. I got it so near right that the index error was only four minutes, but after fastening it with a thread, I found the error was increased. This evening the blacks returned, and reported that the water-holes they had gone to see were empty. They told us of two practicable roads to the Barcoo River: one by Stark Creek from a place up

the river, the other from a place down the river; the latter we determined to try.

April 12.—We left Camp 45, two of the blacks accompanying us to show us the lower road to the Barcoo River. About a mile from camp we passed some blacks, whom our guides stopped with. Afterwards, the eldest of the black fellows came in the evening for some flour for himself and his companions. The country we have seen since leaving 44 camp has undulating features, but no hills. The soil rich, but vegetation dry from the want of rain. Distance, 13 miles.

April 13.—Camp 46 is situated near the eastern channel of the river. We are glad to find that one of our guides, who was named Wittin, had determined to accompany us. We followed down the left bank of the river to-day on undulating country, with rich soil, dry grass, and box-tree. Near the river, just above here, there are sandstone ridges, with westernwood acacia and Port Curtis sandalwood. Wittin told Jemmy that he had seen, to the eastward of here, about ten moons ago, a party of travellers, consisting of four white men and four black men. He got a shirt from them, but they did not give him any bread. Distance, $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

April 14.—Camp 47 is situate on the left bank of the river. When we had proceeded a short distance, we observed a range right ahead of us. Wittin called it Trimpie Yawbah. Afterwards we observed other hills to the westward of Trimpie Camp, the highest of which I named Mount Pring. On the first unwooded plain we came upon after leaving camp, we saw in the distance objects which appeared to be cattle, but upon getting nearer to them we found them to be emeus. The ground we crossed was more level than the land higher up the river, and the grasses at places were good; but otherwise there was no change in the character of the country. Five miles S. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. of last camp made the lat. $24^{\circ} 5' 7''$. Distance, 14 miles.

April 15.—Camp 48 is situated on the right side of a long hole of water on the eastern channel of the river, at a place bearing N. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. from Mount Pring. We steered for the eastern side of the Trimpie Range. Early in the day we reached a creek, showing extensive flood-marks, and with heaps of mussel-shells on its banks, but very little water in its channel. I named it Dunsmore Creek. Led by Wittin, we followed up the creek for about 7 miles, and encamped. Several emeus seen to-day, but they were so wild that none of us succeeded in shooting them. The ground is of a level character on both sides of Dunsmore Creek; the soil rich, with good grass, but rather dry for want of rain. At the place where we struck Dunsmore Creek, I made the lat. A.H. $24^{\circ} 16' 16''$. Distance, 11 miles.

April 16.—Camp 49 is situated at Dunsmore Creek, N.N.W. from

a distant range, named by me Mount Johnstone. Wittin left us to-day. When we had followed the creek up about 13 miles to near its source in Johnstone Range, we had to return about 4 miles to get water for our encampment, as there was none in the upper part of the creek. We saw several emeus to-day, but, as usual, we did not manage to shoot any. The ground we saw from our path is rich, chiefly wooded with myall; the herbage good, but rather dry, from the want of rain. In the middle of the day, when we had gone back for a considerable distance on the north-east side of the creek, we got to the edge of rich unwooded downs. Distance, 17 miles—(direct $9\frac{1}{4}$ miles).

April 17. Party at Camp 50.—Jemmy and I left to go to the Barcoo River. When we had ridden 3 or 4 miles we got on the watershed of a creek on the Barcoo side of the range. About 7 miles further on we reached the main branch of what I have named Archer Creek. It had extensive flood-marks, and heaps of mussel-shells on its banks, but the water-holes in its channels were empty. After following it 13 miles further, we reached its junction with the Barcoo River. I was glad to find that the channel of the river was full of water. Returned up Archer's Creek for about 4 miles to some fine young grass, and camped. The country we saw to-day has in many places a rich soil, with grass and salt-bush. Distance, $23\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

April 19.—Camp 50 is situated on the left bank of Dunsmore Creek, at a place bearing N. by W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. from Johnstone's Range. While the main party started direct for Cooper's River, Fisherman and I went to Johnstone's Range, which we reached in about 4 miles. We ascended its cliff-topped summit, and observed from it a long range of hills, from which we bore $99\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ from one end, and 141° from another part. The part of the range we were on prevented me from seeing the other end of Johnstone's Range. The latitude of observation made here is $24^{\circ} 34'$ S. To reach the river where Mr. Bourne had moved the encampment, a short distance above the junction of Archer's Creek with the Barcoo River, we had to hasten the last 7 miles to get to it before dark. By coming on a different course from our yesterday's one, the road was not so good, and the country was so thickly wooded at places with westernwood acacia, that riding fast was too dangerous to be agreeable. 22 miles. (Direct distance made by party not stated.)

April 20 (Sunday), Barcoo River, Camp 51.—To-day we rested ourselves and the horses in latitude $24^{\circ} 37' 43''$.

April 21.—Camp 51 is situated on the left bank of the Barcoo, bearing E. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. from a small hill about 2 miles distant. We followed the river up on its western bank, and encamped at 5:10 P.M. We came first in a N.N.E. direction, and afterwards for a few miles in a more easterly one. Our path along the first part was between

ridges thickly wooded with westernwood acacia, and low flat country intersected by boggy branches of the river. On the flats, where the old grass had been burned, good grass had grown up. There was also good grass on the ground which had been flooded near the channels of the river. About 4 miles N.E. from last camp I made the latitude $24^{\circ} 34'$. Distance $15\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

April 22.—Left Camp 52, and followed up the river on its western side. The country we saw was like that seen yesterday, except being scrubby at a few places. In the middle of the day Jemmy and I waited behind the main party, and as we were riding to overtake the main party we passed nets for catching emeu, and nets for catching fish. We then passed an elderly gin and a little boy watching earnestly our main party, and immediately afterwards we came upon about a dozen blacks. Mr. Bourne informed me that they had followed him for several miles, and had persisted in approaching nearer than was desirable. Jemmy had a long conversation with them respecting the explorers they had seen, and also respecting the route towards the settled districts, which he learned some of them had visited. They said they did not remember any explorers who had larger animals than horses, and, strange to say, none who had drays. We presented them with glass bottles, an empty powder-flask, and some hair from the horses' tails. Jemmy told them we wanted to encamp, and that we did not wish to be too near them. They continued to follow us, and on Jemmy asking them why they did so, they replied they wanted a light. We gave them one, and they left; but after we had camped we found they had encamped very near us. Distance $18\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

April 23.—During the second watch last night, our lives depended on the vigilance of our watchmen. The blacks came up, and probably would have overpowered us if they had found all asleep; but Jemmy, the native trooper, who always keeps his watch well, awoke us, and all of our party except one discharged their guns in the direction from where we heard the blacks. I reserved my charge to shoot at them when I caught sight of them, which I did not succeed in doing until after daylight. We set off two sky-rockets, but they did not go up well, because they were bruised, or because the sticks we attached to them were unsuitable. When the first rocket exploded, it made the blacks laugh; at the explosion of the second we did not hear them do so, as they had probably retired to some distance. After the conduct of the blacks last night, and as they approached Gregory's party in a similar way in the same neighbourhood, I fully intended to shoot at them if we had a chance; but this morning, although three approached to within 100 yards of us while we were eating our breakfast, I did not fire at them until Jemmy had warned them of our hostile feel-

ing towards them, and until they, instead of attending to the warning they had received to be off, got most of their companions, who were heavily loaded with clubs and throwing-sticks, to approach within about the same distance of our position. I then gave the word and we fired at them. The discharge wounded one and made the rest retire. Some of us followed them up as far as the horses, and again fired, and shot the one who had been wounded previously. Afterwards Jackey slightly wounded another, when Jemmy and he went for the horses. Perhaps these blacks, as they said they had visited the settled country, may have had a part in the massacre of the Wills family. We followed the river up to-day for about 18 miles. About 16 miles of the distance was along the western bank. On that side the country is inferior, and the place is thickly wooded with westernwood acacia. Near sunset we crossed several channels of the river. There was a change in the character of the country when we left the northern bank; the ridges were sandy, caused, I judged, by the junction of the Alice River, which I was afraid of following up in mistake for the Barcoo River. We were not certainly, according to the chart, so far to the northward as it; but Mr. Gregory discovered, when he went through the country, that the north bend was laid down on the chart too much to the northward. From where we crossed the watercourse we steered S.E., and after crossing several dry watercourses, reached one with water in it and encamped. Total, 18½ miles.

April 24.—We left Camp 54 this morning 9.25, and travelled up the river, and encamped on the bank of a small creek. The country we have seen from the path we have traversed, since leaving what I thought was the Alice River, is very good, with the exception of a few patches of land too thickly wooded with westernwood acacia. The land generally is thinly wooded with myall, and well grassed with the best grasses. Distance, 17 miles.

April 25.—We left Camp 55 this morning, and in the afternoon reached a creek, which I thought perhaps was a channel of the Barcoo River, and encamped on the left bank of the creek. To the southward of our path we observed a long range of hills, one of which was remarkable for its tabled summit. The country we saw was more undulated than that we saw yesterday, but otherwise of a similar description. Distance, 20 miles.

April 26.—On quitting Camp 56 we left the small creek on which we had encamped, and reached another creek with here and there water in its channel. We followed this up nearly to its source in the fine range of hills mentioned in yesterday's journal. Having left the creek, we came nearly east to the left bank of a watercourse with plenty of water in it, and encamped. The country we saw to-day was very rich, with undulating features, and the

best grasses; the timber upon it consisting of myall, westernwood acacia, brigalow, whitewood, and box. The brigalows are few and far between. The box grows along the watercourses. Distance, $14\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

April 27. Camp 57.—This being Sunday, we rested ourselves and our horses. Lat. $24^{\circ} 43'$.

April 28.—The greater part of the forenoon was spent in collecting the horses. We left Camp 57 at 12:35 P.M. When we had proceeded up the western bank of the creek (the side on which we had encamped) for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, we crossed it, and left it, as it became evident that its sources were in the hills to the right of the course we wanted to pursue. After proceeding in an easterly course from the creek, over low undulating ridges, we saw two emeus, which remained in our vicinity for some time, but not sufficiently near to induce any of us to try and shoot them. Half-a-mile from this brought us in a south-east direction to a well-watered creek, which we followed up for some distance, but, as it took us in a south-west direction, we returned and followed it down. This took us in a north-east direction. When we had come down the creek about 3 miles, reckoning from the place we first struck it, we encamped. The ground near here is flat and intersected by watercourses, so much so, that it is like a kind of country that is often found in flat country near a river. The land we saw to-day is rich and well-grassed, seemingly as good sheep country as any I have seen. Near last camp I made the lat. $24^{\circ} 44'$. Distance $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

April 29.—When we had come a few miles from Camp 58, the grey mare on which I rode suddenly became unwell, and lying down, in a few minutes died, though in good condition. When we had come easterly about $9\frac{1}{4}$ miles, we reached the best-watered and the largest-looking watercourse we have seen for some time. Where the mare died I made the latitude $24^{\circ} 44'$, which nearly agrees with the latitude I got by the observations on Sunday and Monday. After reaching this watercourse, we followed it up. In coming to it, we passed through several narrow belts of land, thickly wooded with westernwood acacia. The country we saw between these belts was like the fine country described in yesterday's journal, with the additional charm of having trees of another variety of myall. The drooping acacia grows on it. I love these trees; their foliage is so beautiful, and the wood when cut has a fine aromatic smell. The grain of the wood is nearly as hard as ebony; besides, it is characteristic of the best pastoral country, as it only grows on good country, while its leaves are useful and good for stock, which are fond of eating them. Distance, $14\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

April 30.—No entry in journal.

May 1.—We left 59 Camp yesterday morning, and came in an easterly direction to a creek with a northerly course. We intended striking the creek afterwards, and unfortunately did not water the horses, but we got too far from it, and neither found it nor water, although we travelled till 9 p.m. We halted then, thinking the horses would probably find water, which we thought was not far distant from us, having heard immediately before we encamped the quacking of ducks. Our path to-day lay over rich undulating country, from which a number of hills were visible. In the morning we fortunately found we were within a few hundred yards of a hole of water. I sent Jemmy with one of the freshest of the horses to see how the country was watered to the E.S.E. On his return, he reported having found water and old dray-marks about $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles easterly from our last camp. Latitude is by that observation $25^{\circ} 3'$. Distance 25 miles.

May 2.—We left Camp 60 at 10-20 this morning, and for 4 miles followed the creek up from our last camp, which took us more easterly than southerly. After leaving the creek, we crossed a low scrubby sandstone range, and got to the head of a watercourse, in which we found water, on following it down a short distance. The country we saw to-day was very scrubby, with the exception of some thinly-wooded patches near the creek we left. The scrub consisted of mulgah with a few other trees. Amongst these I observed broadleaved ironbark and broadleaved box, bloodwood, curryjong, and bottle-trees. The broadleaved box-trees we had not seen previously on this expedition. The ironbark-trees are seldom or never found far to the southward of the main range. The soil consisted chiefly at several places of stiff clay, which retains an impression a long time when softened by rain. Near where Jemmy had found the water and the dray-track, I made the latitude $25^{\circ} 7'$. Distance, $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

May 3.—Camp 61 is situated on the western bank, at the head of a watercourse, which perhaps flows into the Warrego River. In following the river down, which was our route all day, after crossing a short distance below camp, along its eastern bank, we crossed about half-way a creek from the eastward. Nearly all the way to-day we observed deep horse-tracks, and about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles above camp we observed a tree marked FM (conjoined) with cross underneath. The channel of the river was of a sandstone formation at some places, and had fine holes of water. Our path to-day came over at least 6 miles of unavailable barren scrubby ridges. The remainder of the way was chiefly over well-grassed land, confined on the eastern side for the greater part by sandstone ridges, thickly wooded with mulgah. Distance, 23 miles.

May 4.—As this was Sunday, we rested ourselves and the horses. I made the latitude $25^{\circ} 36' 51''$.

May 5.—Camp 62 is situated on the right bank of the river. In the forenoon we proceeded due south. In the afternoon, we had to travel considerably to the westward of south, to keep near the river, and camped on the western side of a shallow water-hole in an eastern channel of the river. Near the river the flats were good. On them the grass was excellent, with a good deal of cotton-bush and salt-bush amongst it. The back country was sandy, having kangaroo-grass upon it, and wooded with broadleaved-box, broadleaved-ironbark, bloodwood, and mulgah. The river was well watered till we came within a few miles of the camp, where it divided into a number of shallow channels. About $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of last camp I made the latitude $25^{\circ} 41'$. Distance, $20\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

May 6.—We left the river, and after we had journeyed all day in a general direction slightly southward of east, we found water and encamped. After leaving the river flats, the country was poor. The soil was of a reddish colour, and, although sandy, was very hard. It was wooded with broadleaved-box and mulgah-scrub. In the first part of the way in many places it was well covered with kangaroo-grass, but in the last part of the journey it was too scrubby to be well grassed. When we had gone about $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles, we crossed a low sandstone range; until we reached it we neither saw water nor the slightest sign of a watercourse. In this day's journey we saw more kangaroo and wallaby than on any previous occasion, but were so eager to get water that we did not try to shoot them. Distance, 25 miles.

May 7.—Camp 64 is situate on the eastern bank of a small creek, which has a south-west course. When we had come in an E.S.E. direction about 9 miles, we saw a range of hills a-head of us, and about 2 miles further on we crossed a creek, with extensive flood-marks, and a south-west course. About $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles further we crossed a small creek, and encamped. Our path for the first part of the way was over poor land, thickly wooded with scrubby trees; the latter part over land generally good, with good grasses. The land near the creek was particularly good, and thinly wooded with box. Having found four emeu eggs to-day, Mr. Bourne and I made an excellent dinner of one of them boiled. We thought it had as delicate a flavour as a hen's egg; the rest of our party made emeu-egg pancakes, and, although they had no salt or sugar, they relished them exceedingly. Distance, $14\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

May 8.—In the first part of to-day's march, which was particularly scrubby, we crossed a high sandstone range. Further on we crossed a large creek and encamped. The land we crossed was very good, the soil a loose sand with a luxuriant growth of good

green grass. The trees were of the following kinds: broadleaved-box, broadleaved iron-bark, Moreton Bay ash, bloodwood, and cypress-pine. Distance, 12 miles.

May 9.—Travelled down the eastern bank of the river all day, which took us nearly two points to the westward of south. Along our path, near the bank of the river, the land was sandy, wooded with broadleaved-box, broadleaved-ironbark, Moreton Bay ash, bloodwood, and cypress-pine. At a place about $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles this side of Camp 66 I made the latitude $26^{\circ} 13' 10''$. At a place about $8\frac{3}{4}$ miles above Camp 67 we observed trees marked "1861, J.A.C.H. U.C.H.B. A.K.C." Distance, 21 miles.

May 10-11.—(No entries.)

May 12.—Camp 67 is situated on the left bank of the river. Last night we had severe frost, which produced ice in our tin vessels. When we had gone $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles we crossed a sandy creek, and followed it down in a w.s.w. direction for a short distance. Finding no water in the creek we left it, and continued on our old course. Near sunset, when we had gone about 9 miles without finding another watercourse, we went in a more easterly direction. We continued going on after dark, until nearly 2 o'clock on Sunday morning. After waiting for Jackey and Jemmy, who had stayed behind yesterday, we started at 11.12 without them. We travelled all day without finding water; but after dark we found a small watercourse, which we followed down for about four hours, still without finding water. Here we encamped. In the course of the day Jackey and Jemmy overtook us. Their excuse for being behind was their having turned back to look for a pistol Jackey had lost. Jemmy, I was sorry to find, was severely burnt from his clothes having caught fire while he was asleep on the previous night. I determined to return to water from here, as the horses had been two days without any. After travelling almost incessantly for upwards of seventy-two hours we reached Camp 68 this morning at 9. Although there was plenty of water in the creek here, there was more lower down, at the place we crossed on our outward route, when we were $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles s.s.e. from Camp 67. The horses looked wretched when they had been twenty-four hours without water, and, as they had been seventy-two hours without water when they reached here, they certainly looked most pitiable objects. Whilst searching for water the weather was most favourable, although sometimes freezingly cold when travelling at night; so much so that, to keep ourselves from getting benumbed, Mr. Bourne and I often walked. Being able only to take a small quantity of water with us, Jemmy, who was suffering very much from his back, injured by the burning, felt often very thirsty, but, poor fellow, we could only spare him a small quantity. The

country we saw on this journey was so bad that I did not wonder at its not being stocked, and only a few tracks of cattle are to be found on it. The land very level, with poor sandy soil. Where it is not thickly wooded with thick mulgah-scrub, which chiefly prevails, it is grassed with triodia, and wooded with rather broad-leaved-ironbark, broadleaved-box, and apple-trees. The apple trees we had not previously seen on this expedition. *Length of outward route, 61 miles. Returning, 16 miles. Distance (direct) for the three days, 45 miles.*

May 13.—Started at 7 this morning, N.N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. for 5 miles to Camp 69. I made the latitude $26^{\circ} 38'$. *Length of return route, 43 miles.*

May 14.—We intended proceeding down the creek to-day, but when we had got the horses ready to start, we found that Jemmy was suffering so much pain from the sore on his side and back, that he could not proceed. When we were endeavouring to persuade him to try and go on, he asked us to go ourselves and leave him behind. Yesterday evening I dressed his sores with pomatum, and put a bandage round his body. As he supposed the bandage caused him additional pain, we took it off and dusted his sores with flour.

May 15.—Camp 68 is situated on the west bank of the creek which we followed down to where we encamped. This track took us in a serpentine course, and (generally) a north-westerly direction. When we had travelled $12\frac{1}{4}$ miles or thereabout, we crossed our return track. In the first half of to-day's journey, to avoid losing the creek, we had to keep very near to it, because of the sandstone ridges along its banks preventing us seeing the course of the creek, had we kept back from it for the purpose of cutting off the angles. The latter half was without water, but as we did not know that we kept near the creek, in the hope of getting water for our encampment. The country we saw, especially on the upper part of the creek, was poor and of little value. Near the creek we observed clumps of mimosa, the kind that is commonly called green wattle. *Distance, 20 miles.*

May 16.—When the horses were saddled and packed, the main party proceeded down the creek, and Fisherman and I stayed behind to mark trees at our encampment on the west bank of the creek. Afterwards we proceeded down the creek, and, in trying to cut off the angles, we passed the junction of the creek with the Warrego River, and got up the river 3 miles before we discovered our mistake. After watering our thirsty horses, we followed down the eastern bank of the river for $16\frac{1}{2}$ miles to where Mr. Bourne had encamped, and was glad to find he had shot a large turkey. The river has fine reaches of water, but the banks are too thickly

wooded with mulgah-scrub to be of much value for pastoral purposes. We observed blacks on the opposite banks of the river to us. One of them was up a hollow tree cutting out a honeycomb or an opossum. Fisherman had a conversation with him, but as he said the black fellow did not know where there were any stations, I do not think he understood him. There were barking curs with them, which made us suppose we were probably not far from stations. *Distance, 21½ miles.* [Distance made by expedition not precisely stated.]

May 17.—We followed the river down all day till it became dark, in the hope of reaching a station. We were disappointed in our expectations, and did not see any tracks of cattle. Along our path on the east side of the river, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile below camp, we observed a tree marked A. After passing between a hill and the river, about 6¼ miles below camp we crossed extensive flats and a low sandhill. The country was thinly wooded in some places, and scrubby at others. The land, although not very rich, had the best grasses, and cotton, and salt-bush upon it; the sandhill was wooded with cypress, pine, and other trees. *Distance, 23 miles.*

May 18, Camp 71, River Warrego.—I would have gone on to-day if Mr. Bourne and Jackey had been with us, as we have only a few days' rations. Very anxious towards afternoon about Mr. Bourne and Jackey. Meridian of the sun, A.H., $86^{\circ} 23''$, lat. $27^{\circ} 5'$.

May 19. Camp 71.—Fortunately the horses were not all mustered until 3:20 P.M., as, shortly before they were so, Mr. Bourne and Jackey arrived. If we had found the horses as early as usual we would have been looking up the river for Mr. Bourne and Jackey, where we should not have found them. They had lost our tracks and followed down the river. We were exceedingly glad to see them, and to find that they had brought a large portion of an emeu with them, which they killed yesterday. Mr. Bourne observed, in the course he had pursued, a tree marked E. O. on one side, and on the other side E. W. C. over C. During the morning I washed on the edge of the river near a deep water-hole, in some clay and pebbles, in search of gold, but did not find any. Came down on the eastern side of the river and encamped, in latitude $27^{\circ} 8'$. *Distance, 6½ miles.*

May 20, 1862.—We left 72 Camp this morning, 9:20, and moved down the river after sunset. In that time we travelled about 21 miles. We hoped to have reached a station to-day, and would have gone further if we had not been delayed by getting on to a cattle-run, when, as soon as our packhorses saw the cattle moving, they took fright and galloped off. We were very glad to

get to this cattle-run, as we had used all our flour, excepting what would do us for two days; and if it had not been for the emeu Jackey shot, our food would have been entirely exhausted; we had half doomed one of our horses to the butcher's knife. Distance, 21 miles.

May 21.—This morning we followed down the river for about $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles in a s. and by e. direction, and reached the station occupied by Mr. Williams, where we received a most hospitable reception, and learned the unfortunate fate of Burke and Wills. Here I took sights, and made the latitude $27^{\circ} 38'$.

APPENDIX.

(A.)

From Journals of MESSRS. LANDSBOROUGH AND BOURNE.

Excoecaria.—A good-sized bush or small tree, occupying the low depressions above the saline alluvial ground, on the Gulf of Carpentaria. It is milk-flowing, but poisonous.

Erythuna, or coral-trec.

Pigweed.—Portulaca, or the native purslane, a creeping annual, of a reddish-green colour, and an excellent vegetable.

Triodia, sometimes called spinifex, or porcupine-grass, is a true desert plant, and, at the end of each leaf, it is so armed with short prickles that horses dread going through it, and stock never touch it, except when it is very young or they are starving.

Gidya.—A native name; the botanical name cannot be given without a specimen.

Westernwood Acacia.—Same as *Gidya*.

Roley-poley.—An annual salsolaceous plant. It grows in the form of a large ball, several feet high, on rich soil. It withers in the dry season, is easily broken off and rolled along by the winds—hence its name.

Cotton Vine.—A plant, probably the same cynanolium of which the unripe milky pod is eaten by the natives about Lake Torrens.

Polygonum Cunninghami.—A very wiry shrubby bush, which always indicates that the ground where it grows is liable to be occasionally flooded. It is the same as the one from the Murray and Darling.

Mulga Scrub (an acacia).—This is frequently mentioned by Stuart; its botanical name is not known.

(B.)

[The following extracts from the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria at its meeting of the 18th of August, 1862, convey in a condensed form Mr. Landsborough's conclusions as to the results of his journey.—ED.]

"It is satisfactory to me to state that the country I saw near the Gulf of Carpentaria I consider to be exceedingly well adapted for sheep-runs, and that I am of opinion that the most valuable country is the Plains of Promise, and second to them the plains on the Gregory River.

"Of the country I have seen on the last expedition, which had not been previously explored, I consider the most valuable, on which I am sure sheep will thrive, are the plains on the west bank of the Leichhardt River, and those on the Flinders River. Of the Leichhardt River country, I can but speak of a small portion, as I only followed it up for about 8 miles from where the tide came to a fine basaltic ford, where the water was fresh. Of the Flinders River country, the best I saw on the lower part of the river is situated between 18° 26' lat., and 19° 20' lat.; and of the upper part of the river, the best is the last 100 miles I saw." Mr. Landsborough further gives it as his opinion, that whereas it had been supposed hitherto that the Albert River was not a good place for landing horses, the *Firefly*, a vessel of 200 tons, went 20 miles up that river, and the horses were landed without difficulty, in fact they walked ashore. He was delighted to find so fine a country. He had had twenty years' experience of Australia, and he had never seen better country for stock than he found on the shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria. His mission was to search for Burke and his companions, but he could not shut his eyes to the fact that there was a fine country before them, and that country lying idle—a country which, through the exertions of Burke and his companions, had been opened to the world. The pastoral interest was a great interest still in Australia; and he held it to be a great pity that the stock of the country should be boiled down for tallow when Australia is the finest country in the world for growing wool. In his first expedition he proceeded in the direction of Central Mount Stuart, with the view of trying to discover whether Burke had gone on Stuart's route; he succeeded in travelling about 210 miles, the first 100 of which he followed up a running stream, but after leaving its source he lost much time from the scarcity of water. His first impression regarding the stream referred to was that it was created by rain, but as it was evident that no rain had fallen for months, he concluded that this idea was incorrect. He afterwards discovered that it owed its source to springs of a kind which he had never before met with, the stream from which, near its source in the valley of the Gregory River, was sufficiently powerful to turn a large mill-wheel. On his route back to the depot he found that this stream, at a point distant from Carpentaria about 80 miles, divided into two branches, one of which flowed into the Nicholson River, and the other into the Albert. As an evidence of the superior quality of the country through which he passed on his expedition to the south-west, he might mention that the horses travelled as well as if they had been stable-fed. He had travelled in Queensland and New South Wales, and had never found horses stand work so well as those horses did at Carpentaria.

"They followed up the Flinders River for about 280 miles through a magnificent country. When they reached this point they left the Flinders, and in less than 20 miles further got to the watershed of the Thomson, one of the main heads of the Cooper River."

"He thought the Flinders River was about 500 miles long. The most

elevated land on the Flinders appeared to be about 1000 to 1500 feet high. The climate of Carpentaria he believed to be very dry, excepting in the months of January, February, March, and April. The bed of the Flinders, where he left it, was 120 yards wide, with a shallow stream flowing along its surface. His party came through the country at a very favourable season of the year. Thunderstorms and rainy weather might be expected until the end of April, and sometimes as late as May. On the heads of the Gregory River the country was of a basaltic character, and on the Flinders there was abundance of quartz and iron-bark country. He saw about 50 miles of the latter description of country, and believed from his previous knowledge that it extended to the coast. The range dividing the Flinders from the Cooper River country he estimated to be from 1000 to 1500 feet high, while that which he crossed on his expedition to the south-west, though about the same height, was of quite a different character, being composed of a basalt different from any he had seen before. The slopes of the table-land were grassed with spinifex, which is almost worthless. All basaltic country he had seen previously in other parts of Australia was exceedingly well grassed.

"He had no doubt that the rivers on the north side of Barkly's Table-land were supplied by springs. Barkly's Table-land divides the northern from the southern waters. He had never been to the west of the Thomson. Immediately after leaving the watershed of the Flinders he got on to that of the Thomson. On returning to the Albert from his expedition to the south-west he came to a river, which he named the O'Shanassy, which has long and deep reaches of water. In the water-holes on the southern side of Barkly's Table-land, which he followed down for 70 miles, he found plenty of fish, and his impression was that these fish came up from rivers farther to the south-west. It was the dry season when he was there, but he could see traces of water where it had spread for several miles across the country in the wet season. He had no doubt that if he had been able to go farther down he should have got to a large river.

[Dr. MUELLER here observed that this seemed to augur well for any expeditions that might be undertaken from the south of the Gulf of Carpentaria to the south-west. He begged to ask whether, in following down the tributaries of the Thomson, Mr. Landsborough met with any traces of Dr. Leichhardt? It would appear, from the information supplied by Mr. Walker, that Leichhardt took the tributaries of the Thomson in order to be able to skirt the desert of Captain Sturt.]

"He could not find Walker's tracks, and believed it was impossible for Burke and Wills to have gone within sight of the sea, because salt-water creeks spread all over the country for 10 miles from the sea."

(C.)

Extracts from Journal of MR. BOURNE, MR. LANDSBOROUGH'S second in command.

"As it is more than probable that our track will be the route to the Flinders and Carpentaria country from some districts, it may be useful to remind such readers as may have Queensland experience, that the thick scrubs, rugged ranges, and the long impassable grass of that country, which offer such obstacles to the traveller with sheep, are nowhere to be found on the western side of the Dividing Range. Our track goes through country which, on the whole, may be said to be *open* and *thinly* grassed, and partakes in its general

characteristics rather of the features of the interior than of the coast. As the squatter will, of course, be the first to put this country to use, it is important that he should know that his difficulties with stock will occur in the settled districts, as on the Darling and Warrego rivers, where both feed and water are often scarce; but that on reaching the Barcoo his trials on these heads will be quite at an end. Excepting in the matter of crossing creeks or rivers, he will meet with no obstacles to wheeled vehicles, and will be able to feed before him flocks of 2000 sheep without any difficulty.

"October 1.—Landed early on Sweer's Island. Saw tree with '*Investigator*, 1802,' cut on it, besides other names. The *Investigator's* crew sunk a well 12 feet deep here, which I see, with one or two others, has fallen in.

"Oct. 14.—*Firefly* weighed at 8 A.M., and made the entrance of the Albert River. Channel deepens very much on nearing the river, soundings being from 3 to 5 fathoms. The channel often widens, and its banks are composed of hard sand, the mouth at the entrance being 350 yards wide, or thereabouts. After entering, water deepens to 9 and even 10 fathoms. The banks are low, but not perfectly covered by the tide, with numerous small creeks leading to or from the river. A little mangrove is visible, but it is not the principal timber of the river-banks. We entered about 9 A.M., wind fair, a fine summer morning, the first vessel that ever sailed up the Albert. The Albert, as far as we have gone, 5 miles, is the finest river, with the deepest water yet known in Australia. At 4 P.M., on shore once more, having struck a shoal, though with 6 fathoms of water alongside. The rise and fall of the tide here is as much as 17 feet; a large vessel may enter, and will find water enough when in. Tide flows 9 hours, and ebbs 15.

"Oct. 15.—We are now about 7 miles from the mouth of the Albert. The Nicholson River is about 5 miles to the westward, the intervening country having the appearance of being flooded at times.

"Oct. 19.—Mr. Moore arrived this evening, bringing news of Captain Norman having discovered a large river to the eastward of the Albert, and about 2 miles from the mouth of the latter. They went about 2 miles up this river, and found it deeper and wider than the Albert, though not fresh; we suppose it to be the Leichhardt. I omitted to say that on the 16th we came on a large vein of freestone."

[The following mode of equipping or managing packhorses is both interesting and instructive.]

"Saturday, November 16.—Every one busy in preparing for the final start. The pack and other saddles were placed in a row on the ground, each load lying alongside its saddle, both marked with the same number, to prevent confusion, and to ensure the same being always together. To ensure perfect regularity, each horse with his load and saddle should be numbered or named, in order that the same load and saddle may always go on the same horse, and their backs, which are the great difficulty, be properly and effectually taken care of. Our pack-saddles are the ordinary ones, lightly made and fitted with breeching, breastplate, and surcingle. For each saddle there are two strong canvas-bags, to answer the part of panniers; they are square and with a lap, just in the shape of the old-fashioned pockets which are found against the inside of the doors of stage-coaches; the lap, which is to keep the rain from the contents, being fastened down by a piece of rope through an eyelet-hole. This bag, edged with good half-inch rope, is hung on hooks fastened below the pommel and cantle of the saddle, by means of a leather-covered eyelet-hole in the rope at each of the upper corners of the bag. This operation is performed in a moment, and the surcingle over all binds the load. Into these bags are put the stores sewed in several calico bags, weighing about eighteen or twenty pounds each. In each of these flour-bags was a bottle of rum or lime-juice, where it is pretty free from the risk of breakage. Medicine, sewing gear

tomahawks, spare horse-shoes, and nails, &c., were also packed in bags of this description, besides two horse-hide water-bags, each holding five gallons. Round the neck of each horse is a strap, which is never taken off, to which his hobbles are buckled, immediately they are removed from his feet, and a halter on each of the horses' heads makes his gear complete."

"The range of the Thermometer at the Dépôt in the Albert River has been from—

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----------|---------|---------------|-----------|---------|
| Oct. 27.—Noon | 88 | degrees | Nov. 21.—Noon | 100 | degrees |
| 28.— " | 88 | " | 22.— " | 96 | " |
| 29.—4 a.m. | 79 | " | 23.— " | 92 | " |
| 29.—2 p.m. | 90 | " | 24.— " | 95 | " |
| 30.—Noon | 90 | " | 25.— " | 100 | " |
| 31.— " | 92 | " | 26.— " | 91 | " |
| Nov. 1.—2 p.m. | 91 | " | 27.— " | 86 | " |
| 2.— " | 91 | " | 28.— " | 93 | " |
| 3.— " | 91 | " | 29.— " | 90 | " |
| 4.— " | 90 | " | 30.— " | 81 | " |
| 4.— " | 99 | " | Dec. 1.— " | 92 | " |
| 5.—Noon | 92 | " | 2.— " | 93 | " |
| 6.— " | 90 | " | 3.— " | 91 | " |
| 7.— " | 90 | " | 4.— " | 94 | " |
| 8.— " | 90 | " | 5.— " | 93 | " |
| 9.— " | 94 | " | 9.— " | 89 | " |
| 10.— " | 90 | " | 10.— " | 90 | " |
| 11.— " | 90 | " | 11.— " | 90 | " |
| 19.— " | 91 | " | 12.— " | 91 | " |
| 20.— " | 94 | " | | | |

"December 24.—A heavy fall of rain, accompanied by much thunder and lightning; all grass, &c., springs up rapidly. Night, cool; thermometer at 80°.

"When we came here in October, though water lay on the ground, the grass was dry and parched. The grass is now very green and long. It is a fine country about here, and well suited to horses, sheep, and cattle. There are facilities for fencing; water-carriage is at hand, and the Indian market contiguous.

"The weather appears to be getting a little cooler, and what Gregory says about the seasons appears to be correct, viz.: the wet season—December, January, and February; spring, or cool season—March to July; dry, or hot season—from August to November. There are no hot winds, and at no time does the thermometer rise higher than in Victoria or New South Wales.

"Sunday, January 5.—There is an evident change in the weather during the last fortnight; it is decidedly cooler, and the mosquitoes are not so numerous. The prevailing cool wind is from the north."

MR. BOURNE'S *Conclusions.*

"The failure of our party in tracking out the course of the unfortunate Burke and his comrades, as well as Walker and his party's want of success on the same errand, arose from the simple fact, of which the originators of this expedition and many others seem not to be aware, that tracks, under many circumstances, become almost immediately obliterated, as Burke's proved to be for long distances together. One fact, however, of some importance, we, with M'Kinlay and Stuart's parties, have assisted to put in its true light, which is the perfect sufficiency of horses for the purpose of exploring in Australia. There is, indeed, no question that they are immeasurably superior in the bush to bullocks, as they will be found, in inexperienced hands, even to camels.

"One of the circumstances which struck me very forcibly on our trip, and is in itself a remarkable commentary on the nature of the country which we passed through, is the great scarcity of animal life. Of large game the emu is certainly the most numerous, kangaroos and opossums being of very rare occurrence. One of the results of this is that the natives are not numerous, and are, probably, very hard pressed to sustain life on their very indifferent food. The long droughts which certainly occur in that part of the country which lies between the Barcoo and the Darling must, indeed, be very trying to these people. Such droughts, I have no doubt, are both severe and frequent, as a thousand circumstances show, and will often make travelling most difficult through this region, as far at least as stock is concerned. In fact I am informed, whilst writing this, by an excellent bushman, who has just returned from the neighbourhood of the Barcoo, that even now this country is probably quite impassable even to a horseman, and certainly so to persons travelling with stock. It is to be hoped that this will become known to such adventurous pioneers as think of transplanting their household gods to the fertile banks of the Flinders.

"At the same time I cannot speak too highly of the magnificent country in the neighbourhood of the Gulf of Carpentaria, embracing as it does the boundless "Plains of Promise;" nor do I think the statements of all previous explorers at all overrated in pronouncing it as an unrivalled sheep-country. An opinion too generally prevails with regard to the deterioration of wool in all tropical climates, without making any allowance for locality, elevation, &c., but in this part of the Australian continent at no period did the thermometer rise higher than 103° during the hottest months; the nights are always cool, and the power of the sun is counteracted by the prevailing trade-winds. Captain Stokes also, when exploring this country some years back, mentions the range of the thermometer as remarkably low, so that these well-known facts are, I think, quite sufficient to do away with such impressions. It is not, indeed, out of place to remark that stockowners who have been accustomed to the settled districts only should, before starting on a trip of this sort, secure the services of some one as a leader who is used to travelling in these regions."

(D.)

As it is desirable that all the routes from the Darling towards the Barcoo River should be known, the following letter from Mr. Neilson is appended. The route he describes is almost on a direct line from Mount Rankine to Carpentaria.

"Kennedy's XIX Camp, River Warrego, May 22, 1862.

"DEAR SIR,—Agreeably to your request I beg to furnish you with a few memoranda of a journey made by Messrs. H. and F. Williams and myself from Mount Rankine on the Darling towards Cooper's Creek. We left the Darling on the 22nd of June, 1861, and after crossing the Talywalka Creek at 6 miles, camped on Mulyoh Spring, course n.w. by w., distance 25 miles. Our next day's journey was to Wentholey, on the Paaroo Creek, upon the same bearing, and a distance of 40 miles. We then followed the Paaroo Creek upward on a general course of N. by E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. to the 29th parallel, when we struck out to the north-west, and on rising the range saw a large sheet of water. Camped upon it. It proved to be a lake of about 25 miles in circumference, and very shallow. Our distance travelled, 23 miles from the boundary.

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Next day followed the same course, and camped at 30 miles on a large clay-pan. Followed on the next day, and at 10 miles came on a Boree Creek with water. Followed on, bearing to the northward of N.W. about half a point, and camped on a lateral creek containing pools of water and polygonum flats, and on examining the bed of the creek found some crawfish eyes, and judged to be in the vicinity of a large water. Distance travelled 26 miles. Next day followed the creek on a N.N.W. bearing, and at 11 miles came to a large creek running rapid, and having flooded flaps extending 2 miles from its bed, and bearing marks of very high floods. We crossed the creek, and extended our journey about 15 miles to the west; the country being cut up by creeks not then flooded, but bearing evidences of high floods. Our rations being short, we turned back. From this point I consider our position to be within about 35 miles of Cooper's Creek. We followed the creek we left, running down for about 50 miles on a S.W. by S. course. A larger volume of water comes down this creek than what comes down the Warrego, and it contains some fine reaches of water where the creeks meet and form one channel. I believe it to be identical with the Nive of Mitchell, never traced out, and in its position with the Paaroo forms a line of communication practicable in all seasons from Mount Rankine on the Darling to Cooper's Creek, and by Cooper's Creek upwards to the Thomson, completes, with your discoveries, a perfect and practicable line of communication to Carpentaria.

"I have doubt to venture an opinion that it is quite practicable to make a cross-country track from this to the junction of the Thomson and Cooper, from the knowledge I have formed; but I think the requirements of the case are better met by striking the Cooper where it takes the turn westward (*i.e.* where Sturt followed it to the east), that point being better adapted to the wants of the more southern settlers.

"I have forwarded a tracing of my route to Mr. Gregory by my letter of February 26th last, and just give you the foregoing crude data to go upon, and of which you may make what use you think proper.

"I beg to remain, &c.,

"JOHN NEILSON."

"— Landsborough, Esq."

Note by Mr. Neilson in letter to Captain Cadell, dated Warrego River, 22nd May, 1862:—"I consider that Mr. Landsborough's route, as now laid out, will be that adopted by the Eastern colonies to Carpentaria and the N.W., South Australia availing itself of Stuart's route."

The head of the Barcoo River was discovered by Sir Thomas Mitchell, who named it the Victoria River. He described it as probably having its outlet at Carpentaria. Kennedy was sent to trace it; but, unfortunately, he had a dry season to contend with: so much so that some distance below the junction of the Thomson he found its channel perfectly dry, and had to return. He followed it, however, sufficiently far to enable him to make tolerably sure that it was the head, outer, of Cooper's Creek. Gregory afterwards, by following it down on his route to South Australia, ascertained this to be the case. Another river, previously discovered by Captain Wickham, in Northern Australia, had been called by him the Victoria: in consequence of this, and of Kennedy having learned the native name of Mitchell's Victoria to be the Barcoo, it is now generally known by that designation.